

1-1 By: Kolkhorst S.B. No. 972
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 5, 2015; March 10, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 16, 2015,
1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; April 16, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 972 By: Kolkhorst

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to training academies for public school teachers who
1-23 provide reading comprehension instruction to students in grades
1-24 four and five.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
1-27 amended by adding Section 21.4554 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 21.4554. READING-TO-LEARN ACADEMIES. (a) The
1-29 commissioner shall develop and make available reading-to-learn
1-30 academies for teachers who provide reading comprehension
1-31 instruction to students at the fourth or fifth grade level.

1-32 (b) A reading-to-learn academy developed under this
1-33 section:

1-34 (1) must include effective instructional practices
1-35 that promote student development of reading comprehension and
1-36 inferential and critical thinking;

1-37 (2) must provide training in the use of empirically
1-38 validated instructional methods that are appropriate for
1-39 struggling readers;

1-40 (3) may include material on writing instruction; and

1-41 (4) must provide participating teachers with access to
1-42 the academy training materials through the Internet after the
1-43 teachers attend the academy.

1-44 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting
1-45 teachers who may attend a reading-to-learn academy. In adopting
1-46 selection criteria under this subsection, the commissioner shall
1-47 require granting a priority to teachers employed by a school
1-48 district at a campus at which 50 percent or more of the students
1-49 enrolled are educationally disadvantaged.

1-50 (d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who
1-51 attends a reading-to-learn academy is entitled to receive a stipend
1-52 in the amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend received
1-53 under this subsection is not considered in determining whether a
1-54 district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under
1-55 Section 21.402.

1-56 (e) On request of the commissioner, regional education
1-57 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with
1-58 training and other activities relating to the development and
1-59 operation of reading-to-learn academies.

1-60 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

2-1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-4 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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